

ABISM: an interactive image quality assessment tool for adaptive optics imaging



ABISM: Automatic Background Interactive Strehl Meter

ABISM was mainly developed between 2012 and 2014 as a prototype program to ease the QC0 (immediate Quality Control) classification of Adaptive Optics (AO) data in the framework of SciOps 2.0¹

A big effort was also put to make ABISM as robust (and forgiven) with a high rate of repeatability. As a matter of fact, ABISM is able to automatically correct for bad pixels, eliminate stellar neighbours and estimate/fit properly the background.

ABISM uses a "class" for each instrument different settings can be automatically set to the operator/user does not have to see the most complex settings (available from the GUI menus as shown below on the commented screenshot):

It's a **Python**-based tool with a graphical user interface (GUI) that can be used with little AO knowledge. The night astronomer (NA) or Telescope and Instrument Operator (TIO) can launch ABISM easily from Gasgano² and the program is able to read keywords from the FITS header to avoid mistakes and smoothen the nighttime operations.

Main features

- ♦ 2D fitting (anamorphism) Moffat, Gaussian, Bessel, no-fit
- ♦ Binary fitting for astrometry Position angle, flux ratio
- ♦ Contours PSF morphology comparison
- ♦ Companion rejection Crowded fields!
- ♦ Median filtering, bad pixel mitigation Raw data for most modes (center image)
- ♦ Smart background options Integrated Spectrograph reconstructed images (eg. SINFONI) Edge objects (draa the background box)

- Menus**
- Automatic detection (FITS Header)
 - Obs/Tel/Instrument
 - DATA format
 - WCS
 - Message if saturation/non-linearity levels are reached
 - Reads cubes frame by frame
- File box**
- Manual cuts (optional) Lin/Log/Square scale
- Parameter box**
- From FITS header
 - Central wavelength
 - Pixel Scale
- From VLT "class"
 - Diameter
 - Central Obstruction
- Options box**
- Background options
 - Annulus, rectangles, fit, none
- Photometry options
 - Elliptical/rectangle apertures
 - Fit
 - Manual
- Results box**
- Warnings
 - Pixel scale > 0.5xλ/D (Shannon) => undersampled, SR unreliable, please use FWHM
 - Saturated/Non-linear => SR not reliable
 - Low SNR => low SNR, mind the uncertainties
- Warning box**

The screenshot shows the ABISM GUI with the following components highlighted:

- File name:** ABISM (NACO_IMG_SCI163_0342.fits)
- Image box:** The main image area showing a star field with a central star and a zoomed-in region.
- Parameter box:** ImageParameters (Cube Number: 9, Labels: ESO / VLT / NaCo, RAW512 x 514 x 9, WCS detected), Cut image scale (Max cut: 10000, Min cut: 10), Parameters (Wavelength*: 2.15, Pixel scale*: 0.01327, Diameter*: 8.0, Obstruction (d2/d1)* [%]: 14.0, Zero point (mag): 0.0, Exposure time [sec]: 3.0), More Options (Background, Photometry), SubtractBackground (Background, Photometry), Anisomorphism, Binary_same_psf, Saturated_same_center.
- Options box:** Background, Photometry, Anisomorphism, Binary_same_psf, Saturated_same_center.
- Results box:** Moffat2D, In detector units, Strehl: 37.7 +/- 0.5 %, Eq. SR(2.17μm): 38.4 +/- 0.6 %, Center x,y: 106.338, 429.464, FWHM a,b,e: 5.6, 5.2, 0.36[pxl], Photometry: 1 061 231.2 [adu], Background: 130.4 rms: 12.8[adu], S/N: 242.8, Peak: 17 674.0 [adu].
- Warning box:** WARNING: Peak flux in non-linear range => SR not-reliable
- Profile box:** Photometric Profile showing a 2-D profile with Data, 99% EE, Fit, and Ideal PSF.
- Comparison box (fit/data):** True Image and Fit side-by-side.
- Tools:** Fit Type (Gaussian, Moffat, Bessel1, None, Less Option), Pick Object(s) (PickOne, Binary Fit, PickMany, No Pick).
- Image box:** pan/zoom, zmax= 2421, z= 51, x= 49, y= 480

Many color/cut/scale schemes
2-D cuts, histogram, statistics, contours

Image box

Compass North/East if WCS detected

Flux (ADU) for any given mouse pointing

Default Matplotlib options Zoom, Pan, Save image, etc.

Comparison box (fit/data)

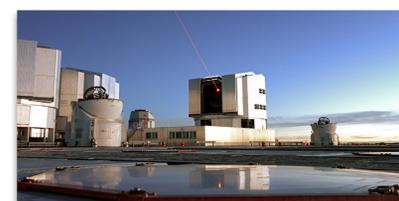
Profile box

Didactic 2-D profile

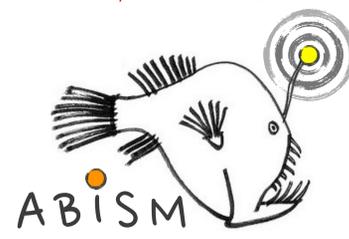
- automatic detection of 99% EE radius
- data fit
- theoretical PDF with same photometry

Middle star of triple system fitted

- automatic rejection of neighbours
- median background out of 8 square (orange) boxes



Developped at the VLT/ SciOps PROJ-0003



¹ SciOps 2.0: operations model at the Paranal Observatory in which the astronomer leaves the console between 2 and 4am (Dumas et al. in this conference, paper 9149-52)

² Gasgano: Data File Organiser (ESO) www.eso.org/sci/software/gasgano



Measure the **Strehl ratio** in one click!